mitments, However, imported stocks would not be released for distribution so long as indigenous stocks are available, as far as possible.

Prices of pulses

853. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the present retail prices of each type of pulses;

(b) whether the prices of pulses have increased much in the recent past;

(c) what are the reasons for the rise in prices of pulses;

(d) whether Government have taken any measures to bring down the retail prices of pulses in the market, if so, what are the details in this regard and the results achieved so far; and

(e) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to start distribution of pulses through the Public Distribution System network at support price and if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) A statement showing the retail prices at on 20-4-1987 and the month end retail prices from October 1986 of major pulses at selected centres is attached. [*See* appendix CXLII, Annexure No. 53].

(c) The rise in prices is significant only in the case of Arhar dal and is due to a decline in production.

(d) The Central Government have promulgated an order called the "Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977" in exercise of the powers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to provide for stock limits for, among other commodities, pulses for various category of traders as a measure to prevent hoarding and to make them available to consumers at reasonable prices. The Government is also armed with the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981, and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Government who have been from time to check black marketing and profiteering. These provisions are enforced by State Governments who have been front time to time asked to enforce these provisions vigorously.

State Governments/Union Territories have also been requested to arrange sale of pulses through retail outlets of their co-operative network especially in urban areas.

(e) No soch proposal is under consideration.

D.D.A. Flats in ASIAD Village

854. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1294 given in Rajya Sabha on 6th March, 1987 and to state:

(a) whether before the start of the auction of the flats in the Asiad Village, the D. D. A. had announced that it would be responsible for any earlier liability in respect of these flats;

(b) if so, what are the liabilities in respect of these sold-out flats;

(c) whether the D. D. A. has to pay crores of rupees to the Municipal Corparation of Delhi towards taxes; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for not paying the dues to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and by when the said amount is proposed to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) DDA has reported that before the auction of the Asiad flats on 26th March, 87 it was announced in the auction hall that the allottee is liable to pay Property Tax from the date the possession thereof is given to him. Such tax liabilities are to be assessed by MCD and intimated to the respective allottees.

(c) and (d) The flats in Asiad Games Villages Complex were constructed by the DDA and were used for a short period during Asiad, 82 NAM etc., According to the recent decision of Delhi Administration the individual allottee of property is

liable to pay the Property Tax from the date of possession thereof. In regard to the tax liability for the period between the Asian Games and the date of handing over of possession, a decision is yet to be taken.

Abolition of contract labour in FCI

855. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of contract labour employed in the storage depots and other departments of Food Corporation of India;

(b) whether their is any proposal under Government's consideration to abolish the contract labour system in Food Corporation of India; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The foodgrain handling operations in FCI depots vary from season to season and even day to day. Generally these are carried out through service contractors who employ their own labour as per the requirement and periodical work indent. Therefore the number of labourers keep on varying from time to time.

(b) and (c) The question of abolition of contract labour system in food storage depots, of the FCI is under consideration of the Union Ministry of Labour on the directives of the Supreme Court in a writ petition filed by the FCI Workers Union.

Taking over of possession of foodgrains from Punjab by FCI

856. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the normal period during which the FCI takes over the possession of foodgrains purchased on its behalf by the State organisations in Punjab markets;

(b) whether it is a fact that any delay in this process beyond three-four days cause many problems, disputes and wastages; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure quick transfer of stocks and speedy movement of foodgrains from Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The takeover of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India from the State agencies in Punjab is a continuous process and the quantities taken over depend upon the volume of stocks, available storage, movement capacity and other related factors. The State agencies are expected to procure grains that conform to specifications and maintain them in good condition. They are reimbursed all reasonable expenses on storage and maintenance for the period the grains procured are held by them. It is the endeavour of the Food Corporation of India to take over such stocks as expeditiously as possible. The movement of foodgrains from Punjab, which was 9.15 lakh tonnes in December, 1986, went up to over 12.00 lakh tonnes in March, 1987.

Drought relief to Kerala

857. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute drought situation in Kerala;

(b) whether the Kerala State Government has submitted any memorandum to the Central Government seeking for an immediate drought relief assistance of Rs. 138 crores; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction therto?